

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Block Island School
January 21, 2015
(Rescheduled from January 20, 2015)
7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Wednesday, January 21, 2015, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Patricia Doyle, Ann Hall, William Padien, and Christopher Willi. Robert Hicks was also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the minutes of the meetings held on December 15 and December 22, 2014, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

Mr. Hicks reported that RIDE delayed the release of the NECAP science scores until they could be reviewed because several districts had issues with eighth grade scores. Mr. Hicks did not see any anomalies in Block Island's scores. Because we don't have large enough numbers to report in every grade, he combined them to get a composite. We have consistently improved and are pulling away from the state.

Mr. Hicks submitted a memorandum updating the School Committee on several facility issues. The shop vent was successfully repaired and the noise level has been reduced. There was a brown-out on January 6 that created multiple electrical and mechanical problems, including no heat in various parts of the building. We will be filing a claim with the insurance company to cover a portion of those repairs. The plumber who worked on the water system upgrade was able to get the unit ventilator working in the ceramics room for minimal cost. There is a leak over the 5-7 classrooms. Mr. Hicks has asked the architect to accelerate this part of the review process so this project can be put out to bid as soon as possible. There is also a leak in the music room's ceiling heating unit that caused damage to equipment. We may have to file a claim with the insurance company for this as well. When the elevator was built, code required installation of a hole for a sump pump, but a pump was not required. We are seeing marks that indicate water has reached about a foot in depth in the shaft. Estimates to install a pump have been received, but the difficulty will be in venting the water. This project has also been referred to the architect for review.

The standing of accounts as of December 31, 2014, was slightly less positive than last month, but still projecting about \$22,000 under expenditures. A motion (Padien, Connor) to accept the finance report through December 31, 2014, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Old Business

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve Policy IF: Senior Privileges as written and posted for the required 20-day period carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve Policy IQ-1: Publication of Student Images as written and posted for the required 20-day period carried with a vote of 5-0.

New Business

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the request from Kate Ryan to home school her daughters, Cora and Kiley, from January 26-February 6, 2015, carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the request from Heather Hatfield to home school her sons, Blaize and Chase, from January 26-February 6, 2015, carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the request from Eden Smith to home school her daughter, Elaina, from February 7-28, 2015, carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the notice of non-renewal to one teacher in advance of the March 1 deadline carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks submitted his notice of intent to resign as superintendent at the close of this school year. He has had six wonderful years here, but is ready to move on to the next stage of his retirement. He has told his mainland colleagues that this position is superintendent heaven. He thanked the School Committee for allowing him to work here. Committee members thanked Mr. Hicks for all that he has done, commenting that the next superintendent will have very large shoes to fill.

Mr. Hicks submitted the first draft of the proposed 2015-2016 budget. He informed the committee that some adjustments will have to be made based on incoming information. The budget, as presented this evening, requires a three percent increase from the town. Revenues include \$93,159 in state aid and \$49,000 in Medicaid reimbursements. Mr. Hicks plans to use about half of our health rate stabilization fund (\$13,154) to offset the higher increase in health care rates (budgeted at an increase of ten percent), but feels we should follow the town's lead on this. Mr. Hicks reminded the committee that the special needs expenditures allocated to federal IDEA funds are for required programming. If the federal funds are not received, the special needs expenditures must be incorporated into local spending.

Calendar of Events

The next budget work session is scheduled for Monday, January 26. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 9.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 7:50 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: February 9, 2015